

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of preventing a first action associated with a first message from being performed in a target entity, the method including the steps of:

 sending the first message to the target entity, the first message being configured to cause the entity to perform the first action and a second action; and

 sending a second message to the target entity, the second message being configured to cause the entity to perform a third action;

 wherein the entity is configured such that performance of the second action and the third action is mutually incompatible.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of attempting a write to a target entity having first and second security fields to cause the target entity to perform an action, the method including the steps of:

 initializing the first security field with a first initial value and the second security field with a second initial value;

 sending a first message to the target entity, the first message being configured to cause the entity to perform ~~an action~~ the action and to adjust the first and second initial values in the first and second security fields by respective first and second amounts resulting in respective first and second adjusted values; and

 sending a second message to the target entity, the second message being configured to cause the entity to adjust the first and second initial values in the first and second security fields by respective third and fourth amounts resulting in respective third and fourth adjusted values;

 wherein the security fields have write restrictions associated with them which prevent ~~the initial-values~~ in the security fields being adjusted:

 in accordance with the first message, if the initial values have been adjusted in accordance with the second message; and

 in accordance with the second message, if the initial values have been adjusted in accordance with the first message, and

wherein the action is only performed when the initial values in the security fields have been adjusted in accordance with the first message, and
the first and second adjusted values are different than the third and fourth adjusted values, respectively.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the write restrictions: prevent the second write from being performed in the event that the first write was previously performed; and prevent the first write from subsequently being performed in the event that the second write is performed.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the second write is sent in response to a notification that the first write was not successfully performed.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the second write is sent in response to a notification that the first write was not received.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the second write is sent after a predetermined time has elapsed after sending the first write without receiving confirmation of the first write being received or successfully performed.

8-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the write permissions are such that only decrementing or incrementing of the security fields are permitted.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 11, wherein the write permissions are such that only decrementing of the security fields is permitted, and wherein:
the value in the first security field prior to the first attempted write was x;
the value in the second security field prior to the first attempted write was y;
the value of the first security data was x-a;
the value of the second security data was y-b;

the value of the third security data being $x-c$; and
the value of the fourth security data being $y-d$;
wherein $a < b$, $d < c$ and a, b, c and d are > 0 .

~~12~~13. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) A method according to claim 12, wherein $a=d$ and $b=c$.

14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 13, wherein $a=d=1$ and $b=c=2$.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the target entity is a first integrated circuit and the messages are sent by a second integrated circuit.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the second integrated circuit is a printer controller.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the first integrated circuit is installed in a cartridge that is releasably attachable to a printer in which the printer controller is installed, such that the messages can be sent via a communications link between the printer controller and cartridge.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the performance of the action causes writing of ink remaining data in a data field of the first integrated circuit as an indicator of ink remaining in the cartridge.